

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (original) A method for producing a stitch-bonded
2 material web by means of hydrodynamic needling, characterized in
3 that a material web consisting at least partly of metal fibers or
4 metal filaments is stitch-bonded and/or finished by means of
5 high-energy water jets to form a material web ready to use such as
6 cloth or the like.

1 2. (original) The method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the material web is formed as woven fabric at
3 least partly avoiding yarn formation from unspun metal fibers and
4 such a material web is exposed to this hydrodynamic needling for
5 finishing.

1 3. (original) The method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the material web is formed as woven fabric or
3 knitted fabric at least partly using spun yarns of metal fibers and
4 such a material web is exposed to this hydrodynamic needling for
5 finishing.

1 4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that textile
3 fibers are mixed in the material web of metal fibers or filaments
4 and both are together exposed to the hydrodynamic needling for
5 stitch bonding or finishing.

1 5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the material
3 web consists of 100% metal fibers or filaments and such a material
4 web is exposed to the hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding or
5 finishing.

1 6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the
3 hydrodynamic needling is carried out at a pressure >200 bar.

1 7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a woven
3 fabric, knit fabric, knitted fabric, stitch-bonded materials,
4 stitch-bonded nonwoven, needle-punched nonwoven as material web
5 manufactured at least partly of metal fibers or filaments are
6 subjected to a water jet treatment to modify properties such as,
7 for example, post-stitch bonding, density variation, smoothing,
8 roughening etc.

1 8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that metal fibre
3 nonwovens with woven fabrics, knit fabrics, knitted fabrics,
4 stitch-bonded materials, stitch-bonded nonwovens, needle-punched
5 nonwovens etc. consisting of 100% metal fibers but also of
6 combinations of metal fibers and textile fibers are combined to
7 form composites by means of hydrodynamic needling.

1 9. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the water
3 jet stitch bonding is followed by a pressing and/or calibration
4 process.

1 10. (original) A nonwoven characterized in that it
2 consists at least partly of unspun metal fibers or filaments and is
3 treated by means of hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding.

1 11. (original) The nonwoven according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that it consists of 100% unspun metal fibers or
3 filaments and is treated by means of hydrodynamic needling for
4 stitch bonding.

1 12. (currently amended) The spunlace nonwoven according
2 to claim 10 [[or 11]], characterized in that the metal fibers or
3 filaments are interlaced, entangled or hooked with one another or
4 into one another without forming meshes.

1 13. (currently amended) A spunlace nonwoven of metal
2 fibers according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 10 [[to 12]],
3 characterized in that the fibers to be stitch-bonded consist of a
4 homogeneous mixture of metal fibers and textile fibers.

1 14. (currently amended) The spunlace nonwoven of metal
2 fibers according to claim 10 [[to 13]], characterized in that the
3 fibers to be stitch-bonded are a component of laminated nonwovens
4 wherein the laminated nonwovens are composed of two or more layers.

1 15. (original) The spunlace nonwoven of metal fibers
2 according to claim 14, characterized in that the layers consist of
3 metal fibers or textile fibers or in turn of homogeneous mixtures
4 of metal fibers and textile fibers.

1 16. (currently amended) The spunlace nonwoven according
2 to claim 10 [[to 15]], characterized in that no filamentous
3 material is present.

1 17. (currently amended) The spunlace nonwoven according
2 to claim 10 [[to 15]], characterized in that thread material is
3 additionally worked in.

1 18. (currently amended) The spunlace nonwoven according
2 to claim 10 [[to 17]], characterized in that additional fabrics
3 such as, for example, knitted fabric, knit fabric, needle-punched
4 nonwoven etc. consisting of metallic materials or textile fibrous
5 substances are worked in or attached laterally.

1 19. (currently amended) The spunlace nonwoven according
2 to claim 10 [[to 18]], characterized in that the pore volume, the
3 pore size and the thickness is also varied by a pressing and/or
4 calibrating process following the water jet stitch bonding.

1 20. (currently amended) The spunlace nonwoven according
2 to claim 10 [[to 19]], characterized in that it has perforations as
3 required according to a pattern.

1 21. (original) Woven fabric, knit fabric, knitted
2 fabric, stitch-bonded materials, stitch-bonded nonwoven,
3 needle-punched nonwoven etc., characterized in that a modification
4 of properties such as, for example, post-stitch bonding, density
5 variation, smoothing, roughening etc. has occurred as a result of
6 an aftertreatment with high-energy water jets.

1 22. (original) Composites characterized in that metal
2 fibre nonwovens are combined with woven fabrics, knit fabric,
3 knitted fabrics, stitch-bonded materials, stitch-bonded nonwovens
4 and/or needle-punched nonwoven etc. made of metal fibers or metal
5 filaments in various combinations by means of hydrodynamic needling
6 to form a composite.